IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a repository for storing a volume license agreement for a product, wherein the volume licensing agreement is obtained from a clearinghouse;

a repository for maintaining a purchase history for the product;

a rules engine containing a set of rules for determining a discount step for the product in accordance with the volume licensing agreement;

a pricing generator, remotely connected with the clearinghouse over a communications network, to calculate a purchase price for the product in accordance with the discount step and the purchase history, wherein the pricing generator determines determine whether the discount step is current and, if the discount step is not current, determines determine a new discount step and updates update the purchase price; and

a purchase generator to display the purchase price and transact a purchase of the product in response to a user request.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 1 wherein the communications network is the Internet.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 1 wherein the clearinghouse is further remotely connected to at least one of a plurality of publishers, the publishers periodically transmitting a new volume licensing agreement to the clearinghouse.

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5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 1 wherein the clearinghouse is further remotely connected to at least one of a plurality of distributors, the distributors periodically transmitting a new volume licensing agreement to the clearinghouse.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the purchase history is updated to reflect the transacted purchase.

8. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rules engine further contains a set of rules for determining the discount step for the product in accordance with a profile of the user that requested the purchase.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

an electronic distribution mechanism to automatically install the purchased product in response to a user request.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing:

obtaining a volume licensing agreement for a product from a clearinghouse over a communications network;

storing a the volume license agreement for a product;

maintaining a purchase history for the product;

determining a discount step for the product in accordance with the volume licensing agreement,

calculating a purchase price for the product in accordance with the discount step and the purchase history;

determining whether the discount step is current;

determining a new discount step and updating the purchase price, if the discount step is not current; and

transacting a purchase of the product in response to a user approving the purchase price.

11. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 having computer-executable instructions for further performing:

communicating the purchase price to the user in a visual display, and communicating the approval by the user to purchase in a response to the visual display.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 having computer-executable instructions for further performing:

communicating the purchase price to the user in an electronic message, and communicating the approval by the user to purchase in a reply to the electronic message.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the volume license agreement storing computer-executable instructions further include instructions to extract the volume license agreement from a remote clearinghouse.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the volume license agreement storing instructions further include extracting updated information about the products license under the volume licensing agreement

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16. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the discount step determining instructions further contain instructions for determining the discount step for the product in accordance with a user profile of the user approving the purchase price.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:

obtaining a volume licensing agreement for a product from a clearinghouse over a communications network;

storing a the volume license agreement for a product in a repository;

recording a history of purchases of the product pursuant to the volume license agreement;

determining a discount step for the product in accordance with the volume licensing agreement,

calculating a price for a purchase of the product in accordance with the discount step and the history of purchases;

determining whether the discount step is current;

determining a new discount step and updating the price, if the discount step is not current; and

transacting the purchase of the product for the generated price in response to a purchaser request.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

displaying the generated price to the purchaser for approval before transacting the purchase.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein recording a history of purchases includes recording a point value associated with the purchase in accordance with the volume license agreement.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein recording a history of purchases includes recording the date associated with the purchase.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein recording a history of purchases includes recording a profile of the purchaser that requested the purchase.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the purchase price is generated in response to a purchaser request.

24. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the clearinghouse is maintained on a web server computer accessible over the Internet.

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